Eye banks in the Country

389. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of eye banks in the country with their locations;

(b) the number of eyes donated by the people during the year 1985 and in 1986 so far; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to encourage people to donate their eyes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) There are 67 eye banks in the country. A list giving their location is annexed. [*See* Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No. 18]

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) The steps taken in this direction are Health Education, Publicity measures through all media on eye-care including publicity on eye-donation.

Proposed Chirparmukh Dibrugarh Rail line

390. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to construct a Railway line connecting Chirparmukh of Nagaon district with Dibrugar via Nagaon, Jorhat, Sibsagar district of Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that instead of constructing a line to connect the major towns of upper Assam, there is a proposal for constructing one line from Hojai to Badarpur only; and

(c) whether a survey was conducted to find out the feasibility of extending the Broad gauge line up to Dibrugarh, if so, what is the outcome of the survey ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (c) A survey for construction of a BG railway line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh connecting Nagaon, Jorhat and Sibsagar has been conducted. This line along with conversion of Dibrugarh-Tinsukia MG line is estimated to cost Rs. 328 crores (net) with a very low rate of financial return. Simultaneously, another survey for straight conversion of the existing MG line from Guwahati to Dibrugah into BG has also been done which is estimated to cost about Rs. 295 crores (net). Both the survey reports are under examination and a final decision regarding extension of BG line beyond Guwahati will be taken in consultation with the Planning Commission subject to availability of resources.

(b) No, Sir. However, a survey was conducted in 1984 for construction of a BG railway line from Lanka to Silchar as an alternative to Lumding-Badarpur MG line.

Excavation of Buddhist Sites in Andhra Pradesh

391. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some major Buddhist sites have been excavated in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have urged the Central Government to give top priority to help the conservation of national monuments and reconstruction of historical temples in the State; and

(d) if so, what action Central Government have taken for the preservation, protection and reconstruction of historical temples and places in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Excavations have been undertaken at the following major Buddhist sites in Andhra Pradesh by the Archaeological Survey of India and Directorate of Archa-